the number of well trained IT professionals in line with economic projections. The Task Force had noted that the issue of manpower gap is not as much about the institutional seat availability as about the nature of skills and training provided in these institutions. The follow-up include, DIT initiating measures to generate manpower in key verticals like bio-informatics, VLSI Design and Information Security; and ITeS-BPO course implemented by DOEACC Society in North East and Jammu and Kashmir to enhance the skills of youth for employment in ITeS-BPO sector.

In addition, initiatives by AICTE include, effective Industry-Institute interactions through collaborative projects with the Industry Association, revision of curriculum so as to meet the necessary requirement and Faculty Development Activities to ensure quality and industry relevance, etc.

The initiatives taken by University Grants Commission (UGC) include Digital Repository of Research and Training material, internet connectivity for universities, information communication and computer education, Teaching innovations in various disciplines and carrer-oriented education programmes.

Institutes of Information Technology have been set up by the Government of India, by the State Governments and also in the private sector to provide qualified IT-related manpower to the Industry.

NASSCOM/Industry's initiatives include comprehensive skill assessment and certification programme for entry-level talent (NASSCOM Assessment of Competence (NAC) and executives (low-middle level management), image enhancement programme to build greater awareness about the career opportunities in this sector and NASSCOM is also working with the academia to encourage/facilitate Industry interaction.

Amendment in IT Act to prevent cyber crimes

2105. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Information Technology Act to meet the increase in cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the sections identified for making amendments; and

(c) if not, whether Government are contemplating to study the problems faced by the industry due to cyber crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Cyber Crimes are adequately covered in the Information Technology Act, 2000. Over a period, new forms of computer crimes like video voyeurism, identity theft, phishing have emerged. It is proposed to amend the Information Technology Act to provide legal framework to prevent such crimes.

(b) Section 66, 67, 70 and 72 are proposed to be amended to provide for new types of emerging crimes.

(c) Does not arise.

Regulation of private courier services

†2106. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private courier services are working under different names to provide postal service parallel to the Department of Posts;

(b) the benefit that the Department of Posts and public are getting as a result thereof; and

(c) whether Government would formulate any rules to regulate the courier service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts is not getting any benefit on account of private courier services. As far as benefit of these services to the public is concerned, no survey in this regard has been conducted.

(c) The existing provisions of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 do not provide for regulating the services of private couriers. In order to regulate

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.